

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Michael Verga on 03/09/2011.

2. The application has been amended as follows:

In the claim:

Please replace claim 60 with the following:

Claim 60. The battery charger of claim 39, wherein the detection block is configured to receive an output voltage from the integrator, and wherein the output voltage signal outputted by the detection block is an output detection signal each indicating that a quantized unit of charge has been processed.

EXAMINER'S STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

3. Claims 12, 13, 15, 17, 19, 20, 22-24, 30-33, 39, 40, 42, 43, 45-48, and 50-60 are allowed.

4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Regarding claim 12: prior arts fail to disclose means for successively delivering progressively smaller charging currents to the battery until a predetermined minimum charging current of the progressively smaller charging currents is reached; wherein

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each of progressively smaller charging current is delivered to the battery until the battery is charged to the predetermined maximum voltage.

Regarding claim 39: prior arts fail to disclose the measuring circuit comprises:
a differential amplifier configured to amplify voltage drop across a sense resistor, and to output a current signal proportional to current flowing into or out of the rechargeable battery based thereon;
an integrator configured to integrate the current signals from the differential amplifier;
a detection block configured to output a voltage signal when the integration of the integrator reaches a threshold value; and
digital logic configured to count the number of received output voltage signals.

Regarding claim 47: prior arts fail to disclose the measuring circuit comprises:
a differential amplifier configured to amplify voltage drop across a sense resistor, and to output a current signal proportional to current flowing into or out of the rechargeable battery based thereon;
an integrator configured to integrate the current signals from the differential amplifier;
a detection block configured to receive an output voltage from the integrator, and configured to output detection signals each indicating that a quantized unit of charge has been processed; and
digital logic configured to count the number of received output detection signals.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Contact Information

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Emily Pham whose telephone number is (571)270-3046. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Thu (7:00AM - 6:00PM).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Monica Lewis can be reached on (571) 272 - 1838. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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